

### REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated October 2, 2003, claims 2 and 8-27 have been canceled, claims 1 and 3 have been amended, and new claims 28-34 have been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has issued a four-way restriction requirement. Applicant elects the claims of Group I (claims 1-7). The remaining claims (8-27) have been canceled.

The Examiner has objected to the Title of the invention as being insufficiently descriptive. The Title has been amended to reflect the invention recited in claim 1.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the step of "alloying zirconia with a first stabilizer comprising yttria and a second stabilizer selected from the group of ceria, magnesia, ytterbia, scandia, dysprosia, neodymia, and calcia." This embodiment of the invention is fully supported by the Specification as filed, and in particular on p. 6 which discloses that the stabilizing yttria can be "supplemented" with one of the listed additional stabilizers. Claim 3 has been amended to be consistent with the cancellation of claim 2. New claims 28-34 depend from claim 1 and recite each of the second stabilizers from claim 1 separately.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,071,554 to Isomura et al. The Examiner has further rejected claims 1-7 as being obvious over Isomura in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,994,250 to Suzuki. The applicants contend that claim 1, as amended, overcomes the present rejection. In particular, neither Isomura nor Suzuki disclose or suggest stabilizing zirconia by alloying it with a combination of (a) a first stabilizer comprising yttria and (b) a second stabilizer selected from the group of ceria, magnesia, ytterbia, scandia, dysprosia, neodymia, and calcia, as recited in claim 1. Instead, each reference discloses a stabilizing zirconia stabilized with only a single stabilizer. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 1 as being anticipated by Isomura and obvious over Isomura in view of Suzuki has been traversed and should be withdrawn. Claims 3-7 and 28-34 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Applicants note that an Information Disclosure Statement was submitted on April 10, 2002 and a Supplemental IDS was submitted on April 22, 2002. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide a copy of the submitted PTO-1449 forms indicating thereon that the disclosed references have been considered.

Each issue raised by the Examiner has been addressed by way of the above amendments and remarks. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. To the Extent that the Examiner has any further issues, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

Date: April 2, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mitchell S. Feller', written over a horizontal line.

Mitchell S. Feller  
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